

Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE 03-87)

To Whom it may concern:

We applaud the D.T.E. is devoting attention to this important issue of double pole blight committed on a fairly massive scale throughout the state by corporations who made a business decision some years back to reduce staffing and resources in solving the problem. The present situation makes them the biggest slumlords in the commonwealth.

For a number of years, I have been in conflict with the utilities and how they relate to homeowners throughout the state of Massachusetts. These homeowners are rate payers and tax payers who have improved their properties and contributed funds to the civic pride organizations and their efforts such as tree plantings and gardens throughout their neighborhoods. Double poles negatively impact and diminish these efforts to improve the appearance of their historic streets and this corporate indifference to the very citizens who have granted utilities use of sacred public space is most disturbing.

With great pride and attention to detail, we stage a large public event that draws people from around the country to the town of Dedham each spring. We are embarrassed at the effect of double poles on the town's appearance and have complained on several occasions to your office. As a result of these filed complaints some double poles have been removed when the heat has been turned up and then remedial activity stops.

Double poles standing for many years in the town of Dedham has provoked the Dedham Board of Selectman to order moratoriums on new pole installations until the situation improves. They have spent precious time and resources to address the problem with representatives of NSTAR and have held several public hearings on the situation.

Forcing utility compliance should be driven by statewide enforcement and not left to already stressed municipalities to attempt to manage information between all the different electric, cable television and telephone companies. The reality is that they will be hard pressed to afford the time and staffing for the pursuit of compliance and please know finally that this is a fact utilities will and have taken full advantage of.

Substantial penalties should be access against utility pole owners who are not in compliance of the law **without the cost being passed on to the rate payers.** This may finally force them to finally show some respect to the people who have granted them the privilege to do business here.

Truly,
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cc : Dedham Board of Selectman

